

In reply to the offered premium of 60*l.* for the best consecutive series of not less than ten designs in outline, illustrative of some epoch in Biblical or British History, or of the work of a British author, nineteen sets were received, from which the committee selected a series from the "Revelations of St. John," afterwards found to be by Mr. George Elgar Hicks, of Lyvington, Hampshire, as entitled to the reward. Considering that much talent was displayed by some of the competitors, and anxious to stimulate young artists to exertion, they further awarded honorary premiums of 20*l.* each to Mr. G. E. Sintzenick, Mr. W. Care Thomas, and Mr. G. Scharf, jun.

With the view of inducing the production of finer and more elaborate works in lithography than are now general in this country, the committee some time ago placed in the hands of Mr. Templeton, Mr. E. M. Ward's excellent picture, "La Fleur's Departure" (selected by a prizewinner in the last distribution), to be executed on stone of a large size. As this is not yet finished; it will be made to form part of next year's arrangements.

In continuation of the society's endeavours to encourage the production of bronzes, Mr. John Bell's statue of the "Eagle Slayer," exhibited in Westminster Hall last year, has been reduced by Mr. Edward Wyon, and of this twenty copies in bronze will be distributed to-day. The thanks of the society are due to Mr. Bell for the liberal manner in which he placed this figure at the disposal of the committee. For the ensuing year Mr. Foley's statue, "The Boy at the Stream," has been reduced by Mr. Cleverton's machinery, and will be produced in bronze by Mr. Foley himself.

Your committee have long borne in view the connection between manufactures and art, and have felt the importance of leading one to the aid of the other. Considering the porcelain manufacture to be of considerable consequence, and greatly dependent on art, they propose to reduce a statue to a convenient size, and to issue a certain number of copies in that material. Mr. Gibson, R.A., when in England kindly offered the use of any of his works for this purpose, and the committee have determined on adopting "The Narcissus" for the first experiment, his diploma piece at the Royal Academy. Some difficulties which arose at the Academy have delayed the completion of the intention, but these are now removed, and the work will be proceeded with immediately by Messrs. Copeland and Garrett. Mr. A. J. Stothard has completed the medal commemorative of Sir Joshua Reynolds; the committee propose distributing to-day to thirty subscribers the right to receive an impression of it in silver. Any subscriber who may desire to have a copy of the medal in bronze, in lieu of the engraving for the present year, will become entitled to do so by forwarding to the office a note to that effect.

The want of encouragement in the art of gem engraving, at present seriously felt, has been urged upon them in several quarters. It has been shewn that we have no artists in this department capable of engraving a figure equal to those which were produced in England only a few years ago, and that there is not sufficient inducement to lead engravers to pursue such a course of study as would enable them to execute works of first-rate excellence; the committee take this opportunity to draw public attention to the fact.

Since the last meeting Thomas Griffith, Esq., M.A.; George John Morant, Esq.; W. J. Smith, Esq., F.S.A.; Henry G. Atkinson, Esq., F.G.S.; and Arthur Tooke, Esq., M.A.; have retired from the committee; and the Right Hon. the Earl of Arundel and Surrey; the Rev. Edward Culeridge, of Eton; T. C. Harrison, Esq., F.L.S.; and Mr. Serjeant Thompson; have been elected to fill the vacancies thus created.

The account of receipts and disbursements is as follows:—

Expenses:—Clerks, Printing, Advertising, Postage, &c. . .	£.	s.	d.
Sum allotted for the purchase of Pictures, &c.	9,650	0	0
Ditto for Bronzes	450	0	0
Ditto for Medals	200	0	0
Sum reserved for Engraving and Printing Outlines	960	0	0
Balance reserved for the line-engraving of the year	2,383	14	2
	£15,440	5	0

The amount set apart, according to the foregoing statement, for the purchase of works of art, viz., 9650*l.*, will be thus allotted:—

40 Works of Art of the value of 10 <i>l.</i> each.
55 Works of Art of the value of 15 <i>l.</i> each.
39 Works of Art of the value of 20 <i>l.</i> each.
37 Works of Art of the value of 25 <i>l.</i> each.
25 Works of Art of the value of 30 <i>l.</i> each.
25 Works of Art of the value of 40 <i>l.</i> each.
14 Works of Art of the value of 50 <i>l.</i> each.
12 Works of Art of the value of 60 <i>l.</i> each.
10 Works of Art of the value of 70 <i>l.</i> each.
10 Works of Art of the value of 80 <i>l.</i> each.
6 Works of Art of the value of 100 <i>l.</i> each.
3 Works of Art of the value of 150 <i>l.</i> each.
2 Works of Art of the value of 200 <i>l.</i> each.
and 2 Works of Art of the value of 300 <i>l.</i> each.

To these are to be added twenty bronzes of "the Eagle Slayer," and thirty medals of Reynolds. To save the time of the meeting, the medals will be allotted to the first thirty names drawn consecutively at the close of the general distribution.

The reserved fund now amounts to 1,524*l.* 2*s.*, consisting simply of the interest on subscriptions received, the sums unexpended by prizeholders, and the profit on the sale of catalogues at the exhibition. In order to enlarge it, the committee renew their exhortations for the payment of subscriptions early in the year.

The committee are anxious to increase to the utmost the efficiency of the association.

The various new modes of multiplying works of art, the announcement of which has recently startled the public, will not be disregarded by them, so far as they may be likely to assist in spreading abroad universally works of fine art. The steam-press has made good literature cheap, and the increased demand consequent has made it cheaper still, without weakening in any degree its worth and power. The delight and instruction it gives are extended to all and lessened to none. So it should be, and will be, with art. It is recorded of Apelles that he could not endure that a picture should have but one master; he thought that the works of great artists should be carried from one country to another, because painting "was a common good to all the world." We are told too, there was a period when such works were looked upon in Greece as public treasures, whereof the enjoyment was due to all.

In modern times the engraver has extended the delight afforded by the contemplation of works of art to a wide circle, and the processes now in progress of development may enable him to fulfil literally Apelles' wish, and make a fine picture a common good to all the world. If we look back hardly a century, and note the state of the arts in England at that time, the utter disregard of them which was shewn, and the prevailing opinion that Englishmen had not the qualifications necessary for the successful practice of them, and remembering what has been done since, observe the important movements now making in favour of the fine arts, we shall find reason to be hopeful. Amongst the most recent efforts in this behalf is the bill now before the Legislature to enable town councils to establish museums of art, for the benefit of the public,—to provide galleries for the reception of

"Gems of art
And genius, ravish'd from the grasp of Time."

and to adopt the most efficient means of rendering them educationally useful.

Emanating as this bill does from a member of their body, Mr. Ewart, to whom, in conjunction with others, the public are greatly indebted for the establishment of schools of design, and believing that if carried out efficiently by the local authorities, public taste will thereby gradually be improved, and that much good will result, the committee feel entitled to allude to it in terms of sincere commendation. The connection between manufactures and arts is generally admitted, and has been always urged in the reports of your committee; it is asserted, that we cannot compete with foreign manufacturers in some branches of trade because of the want of knowledge of the arts of design on the part of the operatives. By providing collections in each town, of the finest casts of the ancients,—forms of perfect beauty; giving general access to them, and making drawing a part of ordinary education, we might speedily overcome this reproach, and become independent of foreign aid.

The increased facilities of access to national and private collections, now enjoyed by the public, was threatened by the recent demolition of an ancient relic. The law being found defective, a proof amongst others of the indifference towards the fine arts which has been entertained by our legislature, a bill for the protection of works of art has been brought into the House of Commons, and will speedily be made law; and it is to be hoped, that should any evil-disposed person commit a similar outrage, he will be punished with rigour; all have an interest in maintaining the security of works of art publicly exposed, and thereby preventing the renewal of an unjust stigma now nearly removed.

The remission of the duty on glass will be advantageous to painters in water-colours, and lead many to adorn their houses with prints, who otherwise would not have done so.

The increased attention paid to the fine arts at our universities, the important proceedings of the Royal Commission for their encouragement, the rapid spread of a desire for artificial decorations in our buildings, and other evidence, that the love of art is penetrating the mind of the country, would afford important matter for congratulation and comment.

It is not too much to assert, that the proceedings of the Art-Union of London have greatly assisted in producing the movement now apparent, by leading multitudes to talk and think of art who otherwise had disregarded it, and obtaining a more extended consideration of its value and uses. It will be the duty of the committee, as it is their pleasure, to aid in giving this movement a right direction, and they call upon the subscribers, and they call upon artists, as they have before done, zealously to assist them in the endeavour.

"The great end of art," says a philosophical writer of the last century, "has been so little considered, that many are accustomed to look on pictures as they would on rich hangings. It is true, that some kinds of pictures, like some kinds of books, can do no more than please. But the first object of high art is no more to be ornamental than the first object of an author is to decorate a library. Like poets, historians, and philosophers, painters have the power of instructing whilst entertaining the mind." To painters we say, exercise this power, produce works to teach as well as please, and rouse art to her proper station amongst us; and to the public we say, purchase these works when produced and so lead others to follow the right path,—to advance the character and increase the enjoyments of their countrymen. Seek excellence in every department, from the lowest to the highest, and remember, that by rewarding mediocrity to the exclusion of genius which may await your assistance, you depress talent and commit injustice.

Let us all bear in mind, that the great object of our association, is to elevate and diffuse art.

GEORGE GODWIN } Hon. Secs.
LEWIS POCOCK. }

The cheering which followed the report having subsided, the Duke of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, moved that the report be received, and Sir C. Hopkinson seconded it. The motion being carried by acclamation, Mr. Uwine, in a very eloquent speech, moved a vote of thanks to the committee and officers; as an artist, he said, he was proud to stand forward to give expression to the gratitude that was felt by the whole body. Mr. Cooper, R.A., seconded the motion, and it was carried by acclamation.

Mr. W. H. Rosser, F.S.A., and Mr. Fred. Haggard, having consented to act as scrutineers, and Miss Roys and Miss White, to draw the prizes, the distribution commenced, and his Royal Highness then vacated the chair in favour of Mr. B. Bond Cabbell, F.R.S., and retired amidst loud plaudits.

The following is a list of the principal prizeholders:—

Lord F. Beauclerk, 68, Grosvenor-street; Sir E. Perry, Bombay,—each 300*l.*
Rev. A. R. Lloyd, Whittington. Owestry; Mrs. A. Packe, Caythorpe rectory, Grantham,—each 200*l.*

J. Jarman, Half-moon-street, Bishopgate; G. Twiss, Cambridge; W. F. Watson, Chelsea,—each 150*l.*

C. Claydon, Cambridge; W. Gow, Hungerford

• Richardson's "Art of Criticism."